

**CITY OF GAHANNA  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – May 7, 2008**

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Eric Miller called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6pm at the Gahanna Municipal Golf Course.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Diane Cantrell  
Cynthia Franzmann  
Windy McKenna  
Luke Messinger  
Eric Miller  
Laurel Naegele– arrived at 6:03pm  
Vincent Tremante

In attendance from the City were Tony Collins, Director and Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the April 2, 2008 meeting minutes; seconded by Messinger.

**On roll call vote:** McKenna, Yes, Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Naegele, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, and Franzmann, Yes. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Creekside Gala**

Collins shared that the Foundation Gala dinner on May 3, 2008 had 166 attendees; \$15,125 was raised in tickets and individual donations, corporate donations of \$5,000 from Heartland Bank, \$3,000 from SOH Productions, \$1,500 from POD and \$50,000 Gahanna Rotary pledge to the City of Gahanna. Stonehenge Company donated all the food, drinks, and facility for the event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Service to the Community Awards**

The Board received two nominations for Service to the Community Awards. After some discussion the Board will vote at the June meeting.

**Community Center**

Miller asked Board members how they felt regarding a community center. The Master Plan calls for a community center, Camp Friendship is full with a waiting list, other programs are full, and there is not enough meeting space in the community. Miller believes this is a good opportunity for the City to consider a levy since the School Board will not go forward with a levy until 2010. Miller stated that if the Board is behind the levy then they need to be out selling it to the various community groups and youth sports groups and talk to their members and get them involved in the campaign.

Collins asked the Board members what they hear from the community regarding a community center. Miller said seniors are asking for more room, community members and neighbors ask why Gahanna does not have a community center like Westerville and other communities. Franzmann

stated there needs to be indoor space in the community for kids to play and participate in activities in the winter months.

Collins stated that a decision needs to be made on whether a community center levy is needed now or not. There are a lot of projects currently going on in Gahanna and there is not enough money for all of these projects. Collins said the City is contracting with a survey firm to conduct a citizen-wide survey. The Mayor's Office and the Department of Parks & Recreation are coordinating the survey. Two of the priorities are to get a general understanding of city priorities/service levels and to re-address the Department of Parks & Recreation's Master Plan and see how the department is doing. Collins would like to see some of the facility questions from the Master Plan survey re-addressed in this survey. Collins, Euton and the Mayor met with the Director of the Westerville Parks & Recreation Department regarding their recreation center and their levy process.

Collins would like Parks & Recreation staff to generate a list of projects from the Master Plan and the survey results and put a cost estimate to each. Then he would like the Board to put the list in order for consideration. Collins stated that the department should be ready for a special ballot in August 2009. The city has never had a Parks & Recreation levy on the ballot and city taxes have not been raised in 30 years.

### **Fee Waiver and Discount Request**

#### **Fee Waivers**

Collins stated that the Board created and adopted a reservation fee policy effective February 1, 2007 which addressed fee waiver and discount fees for Gahanna non-profit organizations and non-Gahanna non-profit organizations. The department would like to follow the policies of the Board and no longer offer fee waivers. Board members were in agreement to no longer offer fee waivers and to have parks staff follow the fee policy schedule. None of the fee waiver requests brought to the Board on this date were granted per the fee policy schedule.

#### **Discount request**

Collins stated a resident requested a military discount for community activities; specifically pool membership. Staff members researched surrounding communities and only two communities give military discounts. The discounts are for the active military person only (not the family). Worthington City Pool – discounts \$3 off a daily pass, Groveport Recreation Center gives a discount to Adult Active Military \$193 instead of \$250 per year.

Tremante would like to discuss this further at another meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS**

None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Bikeway Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Naegele shared that the committee is holding the public meeting this evening.

#### **Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)**

Cantrell stated the CIC meeting was cancelled.

#### **Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)**

Tremante stated the DPAC is meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2008.

**At this time 6:55pm the Board took a recess to join the BAC meeting.**

**At this time 8:01pm the Board reconvened.**

**Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC)**

Tremante stated the inventory was completed on McCorkle Park, lower McCorkle off of Olde Ridenour Road and the Creekside tree line along the golf course. Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am NRAC will meet at the golf course to inventory Creekside Park.

**Veterans Memorial Committee**

Euton stated the Memorial Day dedication will be May 26, 2008 at 1 pm at the Veterans Memorial Park.

**POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:**

Windy McKenna stated that the School Board will meet on Thursday, May 8, 2008; and the Board will discuss All Day Kindergarten. Mark White, Principal at the High School, was hired as the Assistant Superintendent; Dwight Carter, Principal at Middle School East, was hired as the High School Principal.

Tremante stated four people assisted on Natural Resources Week with removing some invasive species from Friendship Park.

Miller stated it was nice to see so many Board Members participating in the Creekside events.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Cantrell made a **MOTION** to adjourn.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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Eric Miller, Chair